

RMA Operations Committee Meeting  
January 16-17, 2007  
Denver, CO

**Tuesday January 16 - 1300**

**Present:** Dave Clement (Chair), Dan Morford (Vice-chair), Ken Kerr, Kurt Kleiner, Bill Hahnenberg, Pete Blume, Clair Brown, Ted Moore, Bill Wallis, Dave Carter, Debbie Bozarth

**Incident Management Team Selections (fill vacancies including trainees)**

Vacant positions filled from applicant database. Thanks go to Pete Blume and his son again, for a great product, making team selection process seamless.

Revised rosters will go to RMCG next week for final approval. Team selections are tentative until RMCG approves them. Rosters will then take effect as stipulated in the RMA Mob Guide. Trainees that are not selected for team positions from the applicants will be prioritized by the ops committee and included in the RM Mob Guide as Priority Trainees. RMCG approved the additional positions on the Fumt for within area, but nationally not approved for out of area.

A couple questions for RMCG:

1. Is job sharing ok for DPIC within RMA?
2. Request additional position on Ty2 Teams - GISS.
  - a. It is very important for situational awareness to have good mapping during the first operational period.

**Changes to Primary Rosters:**

**ICT1:** Steve Segin may move into PIO1 (T) from IMT2 B if the B primary gets filled with trainee attending S420 next week. Buck Wickham (AZ) moving into OSC1 that L.Floyd vacated. Darin Suter moving into ATGS. Mike Tombolato moving into OPBD D.Spiess vacated. Shawna Legarza moving into the DIVS position Van Zee vacated. Dave Price and Mike Stubbs moving into PSC1 as jobshare that J.Jamiet vacated. Richard Sterry moving into the SITL position vacated by D.Ochocki. Mark Tucker moving into the RESL position and Charlene Madsen moving to DOCL. Larry Long joining Dave Dallison as FBAN jobshare. Added GISS position, filled with a jobshare of Sally Zwister and Mark Roper. Added LOFR position, filled with Bob Kittridge, making the TNSP position vacant. Added COMT position, filled with Brent Haberer. Added INCM position, filled with James Mellnick. Jayne Doyle joined as jobshare for ORDM. Tom Rothleutner moved into the GSUL position, and Charles McCrillis filling in behind him as EQPM. Janell Ray moved into the FSC1 position vacated by S.Shirts.

**IMT2 A:** JP Mattingly will be the primary SOF2 with Jim Allen and Paul Jansen job sharing the second SOF2. Guy Keene moving into AOBD position. Steve Ipswitch moving into RESL (T) position. Vanessa Hanson moving into the SCKN (T) position. Jim Raymond moving into SITL (T) position.

**IMT2 B:** Melissa Hunter moving into ORDM, Jan Lownes moving into the TIME (T) position, adding Charlotte Thomas fulltime SCKN. Laddie Cumbie moving into LSC2 (T) from FACL, and Larry Overby moving into FACL.

**FUMT:** Mark Rogers will jobshare with Jeff Vanis this season in SOF2. Jen Chase will jobshare with two from last year in PIO2.

**GPC Zone sponsored team issues:** The RMA Operations Committee needs clarification on a number of points by the RMCG. (RMCG should address these bullets in language that will meet 2007 RMA Mob Guide timelines)

1. Size & Configuration of team
  - a. Must meet standards imposed on primary RMA Teams.
2. Resolution of performance issues.
3. Applications not through the normal RMA process
  - a. Minimize appearance of hydrating from primary teams
  - b. Will they be a full partner in the RMA process or not.
  - c. **Rma Ops Committee recommends GPC zone team use RMA Team Selection Process.**
  - d. Same 3 year rotation
4. Team C title listed on roster handout.
  - a. Are they RMA or GPC Zone?
5. In the type 2 rotation:
  - a. Clarify in the mob guide at what point GPC team mobilized outside GPC zone.
6. Availability inside/outside zone
  - a. Clarify - using priority of mission/season/all hazards vs fire - different scenarios
7. What is scope & mission of the GPC Team?
  - a. Issues with GPC assignments inside/outside zone - commitment to ongoing incidents and emerging incidents.
  - b. Appearance of conflict between IC's team and state fire responsibilities.
  - c. If RMCG sanctions the GPC team and process, they need to be represented at the Operations Committee.

### Additional points:

- If they are a zone team they go by GPC rules. If RMA team, they go by RMA team rules.
- Is there a conflict of interest with Joe as RMCG chair and IC? This is handled internally within the RMCG.
- As we hear of issues, relay that it is very important to document any issues. RMA IHC were not happy with their experience with this team, but did they write it up? All other documentation received has been to the positive.
- This team has exceeded the original parameters agreed to upon by the RMCG. According to the original documentation, the majority of team would be from SD state, any additional would come from the unselected people who applied through the RMA nomination process.
- We would like to have the opportunity to pull from this pool of folks for our own teams. Mentioned several positions we could use.
- As well as the reverse, anyone not chosen for RMA teams who applied did not get the opportunity to be put on the GPC Zone team.
- We didn't have a chance to mix when we looked at the priority trainees, the ones identified on the GPC Zone team roster.
- Important for the GPC Zone team and the RMCG to understand the RMA Operations Committee **DOES SUPPORT THEM**. The Governor's mission for them makes sense. The RMCG just needs to iron out process for the RMA.
- Some SD resources felt that if they didn't get on the GPC Zone team they would not get to fight any fire.
- When this team was sanctioned by the RMCG last year, it then became within the Ops Committee's realm if any issues came up with that team.
- It is important that we all play with the same sheet of music, go through the same processes. We thought that the GPC Zone team applications were going to go through here, with statements saying they are only avail for the GPC Zone team. It did not happen that way for the 2007 season.
- It is so important for the GPC Zone team to be represented at the table.
- The agencies need to know how they are going to allow their people to apply for this team as well as the others. Make sure that RMCG makes it clear how it is going to be worked out. We feel we need to meet in this room and make it happen. Minimize the appearance of hygrading. They are in the rotation process in PL's 1 & 2.
- There is concern the "good old boy" system is coming back. (CA folks)
- Concern that if the team happens to be outside the GPC zone on a fire and their zone gets a fire, are we ok with them just pulling out of the original commitment? NO. This is a safety concern. It happened twice last year.

**Wednesday January 17, 2007**

**Present:** Dave Cl, Dan, Ken, Kurt, Bill H., Pete, Clair, Ted, Bill W., Dave Carter, Hoss, Sherry, Jim, Glenn, Kim, Debbie

**Recap of Tuesday:** We were able to fill most of the vacancies, air positions continue to be the biggest need, followed by finance.

The IC's need to have the updated rosters to Debbie by Friday at noon. They will be edited and sent to Dan/Dave to take to the RMCG.

**RMCG letter to NWCG and NAFRI on S520 allocation process**

**S520/S260 Nominatons & Prioritization 2008 and 2009 sessions - validation**

	2008	2009	2010
<b>IC</b>	<b>Don Angel</b>	<b>Bill Hahnenberg</b>	Mike Frary?
<b>SOF</b>	J.P.Mattingly?	Jim Allen?	Jesse Duhnkrack?
<b>PIO</b>	<b>Pam Wilson</b>	<b>Steve Segin</b>	<b>Frank Carrol</b>
<b>PSC</b>	Dave Farmer?		
<b>OSC</b>	<b>Ken Kerr</b>	Todd Pechota?	Jim Strain? Geoff Bell?
<b>LSC</b>	<b>Roger Showman</b>	<b>Charlie Rossi</b>	
<b>FSC</b>	<b>Vacant</b>		

Reminders about having the conversation with those you think would be excellent in the jobs but have not applied, help bring them along. This way you are helping the process along, in developing confidence in potential candidates.

Reminder also that it is worthwhile to go to 520 if there is a vacant slot, as it will only serve to further help you in your job.

Real concern for possible shortages in OSC on the IMT1's coming up in the future, need to start reaching out. Also in FSC. Dave C. will check with Sue Evans.

2008 candidates can turn into the mentee's. Don Angel - mentee for IMT1 IC.

Marc will go to the Ty 1 as ICT1 (T) as opportunities arise in 2007.

**National Computer Systems & Kits - Doug Wagner**

See the Issue Paper in packet "The short and long term future of computer equipment needs for IMT's.

Historically have been able to support our teams needs through the USFS excess laptops. However once they changed providers to Dell, we aren't able to get these

anymore. The fleet is aging rapidly. We can make it one more season with what we have. If additional needs identified could rent from someone like Platypus. New computers cost approx. \$1500 per computer. We aren't able to go out on the open market to get them cheaper.

The Operations Committee wants to thank Doug and Flint for the support they have given the teams. It has been much appreciated.

In 2008, the incident automation folks are proposing that Isuite become an internet based system, like Ross. There will be regional contractors who will provide the support service, Platypus probable. They will set up the workstations, printers, network, and the CTSP will be the team's rep to make sure the contractor is meeting our needs. Similar to Fdul/caterer. Feel that they will probably do a pretty good job of making it work. He and Flint don't feel it is a good time to purchase equipment. The benefit to the team is you will always have up-to-date equipment. Won't need two CTSP's anymore. By this time next year, we will have a better idea of what is actually going to happen.

#### **IMT Needs (wish lists) 2007 season**

We would really like a letter from the RMCG in the box with the team vest that is given out at the spring fling.

This is a have to have if you want to look professional.

Chances are there probably won't be an integrated fund, but at the end of each year there will be a surplus of money that can be spent for this stuff. RMCG leaves it up to the agencies to put in \$. If they had a list it would help to purchase these things. Currently it has to come out of the IC's unit budget, not so great. There are trailers available from the state. See Brownie.

Each IC should gather up specific stuff and the put a list together for the Feb 1 RMCG conference call. Ask RMCG to start looking to see what they may be able to come up with by each agency. **ADD TO ACTION LOG**

#### **Develop 5 year IMT succession strategy. Coordinate with RMCG Morford, Kerr, Hahnenberg**

See Draft Succession Strategy and Plan Draft in packet. People around the table need to continually input names as they come up. RMCG excited about this, looking at bigger and broader opportunities. Include Great Basin. RMCG needs to dialogue this thing out. We have tried for the past 20 years. It is a moving target you can't hit. We need RMCG to provide proper objectives and marching orders for us. It needs to be an educational process with line officers in the RMA. Do a trapline.

### **Crews, Mob guide review 22.2, IHC operating plans. Hoss**

There are some concerns out there, there is a lack of understanding concerning the draw down levels regionally and nationally. At PL's 4 & 5 are the resources the Gacc's or National? If all of the Gacc's hold on to resources, then we create a shortage nationally. This is a process that we need to define and get up to NMAC. Not only concerned about national resources, but things like Ty 2 crews, etc.

IHC Peer review's, what is the ops committee role? We are an entity who can go and assist with the reviews as an outsider looking in. Where this started was when we had a couple new IHC's in our region who needed regional representation before they were certified. Hoss will review the current verbiage in the ops guide and get back to the committee. Working with Jim and Shane on mob guide. Need to find a new IHC rep for this committee as Shane is no longer available. Dave asked Shane to ask the IHC committee to pick their new representative.

### **IMT, Mob guide review 22.9/Ops committee guidelines, IMT SOP's**

**Kleiner, Mullenix, Martin**

Kurt felt it read fairly comprehensive, as the new guy looking in. He will continue to participate in the mob guide review with RMC and tie in with the ops committee. We would like Jim Fletcher to report back to this group with the results on the GPC Zone team dialogue at the RMCg next week.

### **Mob Guide 23 - equipment/supplies - Cache Operating Plan - Pre-Orders**

**Brown, Bauer, Robertson**

Discussion on fire replacement, what is and what isn't approved, accountable property. Several RMA teams have a list that is given to the SPUL's for guidance. Have available for all teams including Ty 3. Suggest publishing this in the mob guide. It is lined out well in the IIBMH and the cache operating plan. It is either lost, stolen or burned up. Sherry will share her list with the group, and IC's will share the list with their people. We have to be better at training our people, so they know the rules.

Part of it is our problem, how we order people. We need to be specific and consistent with what they are allowed to come with...vehicles, computer, cell phone, printer, etc. It is either lost, stolen or burned up. If it is accountable property.

Page 59 in RMA mob guide may need to be edited. Civil Penalties, Hazmat. Discussion on the RMA Cache Vans. They are for Ty 1, 2 incidents. We feel they are really more valuable to the Ty 2 & 3's. There is just not enough stuff for the Ty 1 incidents. The type 3 incidents need to be able to use it. Some incidents have ordered a Ty 2 team because they couldn't get the cache van for the Ty 3.

Accountability is tied to it. Many times it amounts to who has the qualifications, bring in someone who can handle the responsibility. FMO's are accountable. Can it be in the mob guide? Jim will talk to John about it. 23.12 & 23.1. It really needs to change at the NMAC level.

The CO Wildfire Academy has invited the RMK staff to go with the cache van to the academy for the past several years. This has really helped build relationships and understanding.

**Radios:** Commercial delivery caused delay to their incident last year. Jim, the intent is to preposition radio kits this year as they have been running out the last couple of years. Date/Time needed should be the factor on shipment method.

**Pre-orders and Timeframes:** The RMA Dispatch Committee asked Sherry to participate on a sub committee involving pre- orders. The idea is to go through all the teams' pre-orders and re-organize by putting the critical items at the top of the list and by functional area. Sherry has sorted through all teams pre-orders, and would like to continue with this project to completion. Everyone in concurrence.

Discussion on the 2200 timeframe in the mob guide, that does not mean dispatch will close up shop no matter what. They will still stay and work on critical pre-order items that need to be sent on in a time critical matter. Glenn and Jim clarified this for the operations committee, RMC will stay open long enough to make the critical items happen, and that there is not a delay for the agency administrators. Also discussed that RMC will ask dispatch centers to come in early if needed to mobilize team members.

## **Mob Guide Review 26 - Preparedness Plan Action Items**

### **Clement, Fletcher**

Jim, Dave and Glenn, with RMC Predictive Services and meteorologists, are reviewing the section on Preparedness Plan Actions Items in order to refine current descriptions. With two of our states not having PSA's the Preparedness Level's are not accurate representations. Pg 88 in RMA Mob Guide.

### **Fuel Moisture Maps Jim, Tim**

The fuel moisture maps got shut down today. We haven't been getting the info we need consistently. We haven't been keeping our commitment to the NWS in the operating plan. FMO's haven't been consistently giving the fuel info. Tim sent out a memo today. We have missed red flag events in the past. It has been the zone Fmo's responsibility up to this point. Nws has gone to Tim and Russ about the inconsistent data they are receiving.

Tim - history of the fuels moisture maps: The purpose was to feed fuels info to NWS 24/7. In the past it was difficult for the NWS to get a hold of FMO's. A website was built for the FMO's to update their weather zones, once per week. Some FMO's do it and some don't. Some guess at the info. Bottom line is we are not living up to the agreement in place with the NWS. Last summer there were 2 missed red flag events. One zone ended up with a 12,000 fire with Fft's on the ground. This resulted in a safenet generated by RMC Fire Weather Program Manager. Concerned about the liability issue.

No one in the room wants to see the fuels moisture maps shut down. Lots of discussion on the issue. It is not the NWS job to make a lot of phone calls to determine fuels. This same problem occurred a year ago, and changing the default has not made the difference. Discussed putting in default dates. But this could end up with NWS putting out a red flag for an area that is wet. We would have to live with that potential for bad warnings. This is not fair to the NWS. And people will not trust the information if it is not trustworthy. Losing credibility should not be an option.

If we are not going to do it on a consistent basis we are putting Fft's in jeopardy. Tim asked the Rmcg to send a letter a year ago, but they did not want to do it. They did talk to their Fmo's. 100% compliance is required for it to mean anything. Responsibility needs to shift back to the Fmo's. Needs to be tied to performance. NWS brought this up to the NWCG as a national issue and Tim's product was given as a way to accomplish it nationally.

Some think that this is something that the intel function in dispatch could do. Not all in agreement. Some FMO's think they are the ones who should talk with the NWS. Tim and Jim will be taking this issue to the RMCG meeting next week for resolution for this season.

#### **RMCG/Ops committee award/plaque for IHC's, Excl Helicopters, ATB Clement, Carter**

Dave - Has tied in with RMCG on getting this going.

We will do something for Pete's son, for his computer support on the team apps.

#### **IMT Monitoring and Evaluation form Clement**

Reviewed form in the packet. Developed last winter by RMCG to specifically monitor GPC team, and decided to use it on all teams in order to document team performance, in addition to the Agency Administrators evaluation.

Proposals to improving the form:



Need to evaluate the total program; dispatch, Gacc, Rmk, Buying Teams, etc. Checklist lists needs to be clarified. Ops committee or Rmcg instead. RMCG should decide the roles and responsibilities of filling out this form. The teams feel it is important to have the RMCG members coming out and doing it. Not opposed to having the ops committee also, but very important for RMCG to be observing the Ty 1 team at this time. If the form is done remotely, then it is not useful. It needs to be a fair assessment. We welcome the Rmcg to come to the incident. Really encourage them to do it. Also some concern that they get just a snapshot in time. It is important that they be there the whole time. Use this on all the teams, including FUMT. Also include the buying teams. Some items are repetitive, pre incident stuff don't need, capture a portion of the agency administrator interaction. Refine the form, get rid of stuff that is ongoing. Monitoring, include anything that will help the Imt perform better and communicate better with the Rmcg and the Ops committee, so we can be more responsive to the Agency Administrator.

**Buying Teams:** Have observed they seem to be more interested in the game rather than the process of supporting the crews on the ground. Saw a buying team treat a local community very poorly. We would like these folks to have some representation on this committee. Instead of sending a whole team, just have individuals pair up with local person. There is a critical shortage of buying teams so there are not going to be enough to go around.

#### **DIVS performance evaluation from IHC Supers form Clement**

A new form has been submitted by the IHC committee. This was generated from the considerable discussion at their fall meeting, about the quality of DIVS they are working with on incidents. It is called an Upward Rating Program form. How do we as ops committee make a difference in this program. There are a whole host of reasons why we may be getting different quality than we have had in the past, Ifpm, etc. There was an informal process where the Ic would pull together the Crwb's, Divs, etc. A team gives an evaluation form in their demob packet, but it is hardly ever filled out. Difficult when fire running and gunning. Not sure if we want to restrict this to just Divs. Sounds like they are not getting team evals from out of area. If this opens up lines of communication with the Ihc, it's a good thing. If all the supers have bought into this, then it is a good idea to adopt with Rma.  
**Decision** - Make the optional form available.

#### **Large Fire Cost Reviews Clement**

Dave: Continue to be a major focus, especially with Usfs

A large fire cost review was done on the Purdy Fire. \$800,000 vs \$300,000.

1. Lessons Learned: In Wyoming, WFU program, make sure you look at the County AOP's. Usfs ended up reliable, structure protection programs, there were issues with how much liability the agency was responsible for.
2. Both Mark and Pete recognized the end outcome was that the federal govt. was responsible. What the fire review team said that they wanted to be shown that they had an agreement with the county that they had permission. Did you have a delegation from the county? No just the forest. County could not provide structure protection.
3. If we would have hired a fire prevention team you would have saved \$300,000 in lieu of structure protection.
4. Maybe a little more doc in the delegation and in the Wfsa - lessons learned: get the state involved, sheriff involved, documentation. Review the delegation to make sure it says what you are being asked to do.
5. Large fire cost containment report. A lot of kudos for Pete having the report done. Involved what we will and won't do to save money, as well as some of the specifics. There are some things that we don't routinely get because of the cost involved with them, for example a helicopter trailer. A summary that showed what we were doing for cost containment.
6. There will be training for cost review teams and comptrollers (comes from nifc). Be ready for them to be involved on the review.
7. Reviews are done on fires that exceed 5 million.

Request from Marc that when the mob guide goes out, send out the current cost sheet for crews, IHC, etc. Wasn't Boise working on that? Glen will check.

### **Colorado Snow Storm disaster, IMT2 response Mullenix**

The team order came in on Jan 2, 2007. No dispatch centers open. Had to open up 6 or 7 centers to get the team mobilized. In the future, maybe just open up Rmc and could have saved a bunch of money. Fema was not a player with a presidential declaration, so Esf-4 was not activated. Snow emergency for the state is how it worked. The normal fire mngt response we work under didn't apply. This needs to get decided for future so that the state knows up front if we can be a player. Reimbursement from the state to Usfs, Fws, Blm. There will be a debate on should or shouldn't we get involved as far as our teams go. We need to push hard for our local Ty 3's to handle this sort of stuff. One of the biggest challenges was trying to get a pallet of MRE's - it was a nightmare to get it fixed. Went fairly well with dispatch. Were not able to take AD's. There was no mutual aid, so payments had to be reimbursed. Told state Oem upfront it would be a bill to pay to have dispatch open up. George Ep is working on getting a skeleton of the agreement

worked out. Needs to be taken to the executive level to see if Rick Cables wants to be involved in this sort of thing.

Aviation resources included National guard, Chinooks, Blackhawks, C130's (1700 lbs of hay being pushed out of the planes). Also CDOT, DOW, State resources, misc OH, misc cache items. The team's mission was to provide logistical support to those doing the work. A Governor transition happened at this time. We set some sort of precedence with this, NIC got copies of our agreements, we are light years away from other states.

Used all the Ty 3 teams in the state.

#### **Ops committee reps to other RMA committees Clement**

Debbie will give Dan the email addresses of all other chairs in Rma and he will email and ask them to give him advance notice of their upcoming meetings. And then we could have someone assigned to go to the agendas that we need to participate in.

#### **New Operations Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

Dan Morford is the new chair with Ken Kerr the new vice-chair. Many thanks from the Operations Committee to Dave Clement for his excellent work all year. It has been appreciated.

Dave passed around the agenda for the RMCG meeting next week. Since Dan will not be able to attend, Dave will.

**April 3 - 4<sup>th</sup> RMCG meeting with an emphasis on team business.** There will be no need for committees to break out at this meeting, unless they want to. Rmcg is not reserving any rooms. Dan will let the Operations Committee know if we will need to physically meet during that week.

Priority trainees will be decided on a conference call to be set up by Dan once RMCG approves team rosters. Pete will run a new list once the teams are final and send out to the committee.

**Next Operations Committee meeting will be determined after RMCG meets 1/22 -25/2007.**